

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 9, 11-16 and 18-20 were rejected as being anticipated by Dordi. Claims 4-5, 7-8 and 17 were rejected as being obvious over Dordi in view of Mori. Claim 6 was rejected as being obvious over Dordi in view of Herchen. Claim 10 was rejected as being obvious over Dordi in view of Jenkins. These rejection are respectfully traversed.

The vacuum reservoir of Dordi is the channel designated as 302 and 304, which does not contain a piston that is configured to move upward in the vacuum reservoir. Thus, Dordi does not disclose a piston configured to move upward in a vacuum reservoir to lift the workpiece off of the workpiece surface. Mori, Herchen or Jenkins does not fill this gap in Dordi. Thus, the combination of Dordi with Mori, Herchen or Jenkins *as a whole* fails to disclose a piston configured to move upward in a vacuum reservoir to lift the workpiece off of the workpiece surface.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712019300.

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Respectfully submitted,

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